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MARRIAGE CONTRACTS OF THE OPELOUSAS POST
1766 - 1803

Translated and abstracted by

Jacqueline O. Vidrine

and

Winston De Ville

MARRIAGE CONTRACTS OF THE OPELOUSAS POST
1766 - 1803

With and introduction by

John C. L. Andreassen, Director
State Archives and Records Commission

and a brief history of the Opelousas Post by

Edwin A. Davis, Ph. D.

Head, Department of History, Louisiana State University
Founder and First Head of the Department of Archives,
Louisiana State University

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and

Winston De Ville

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NEW ORLEANS TERRITORY, 1804

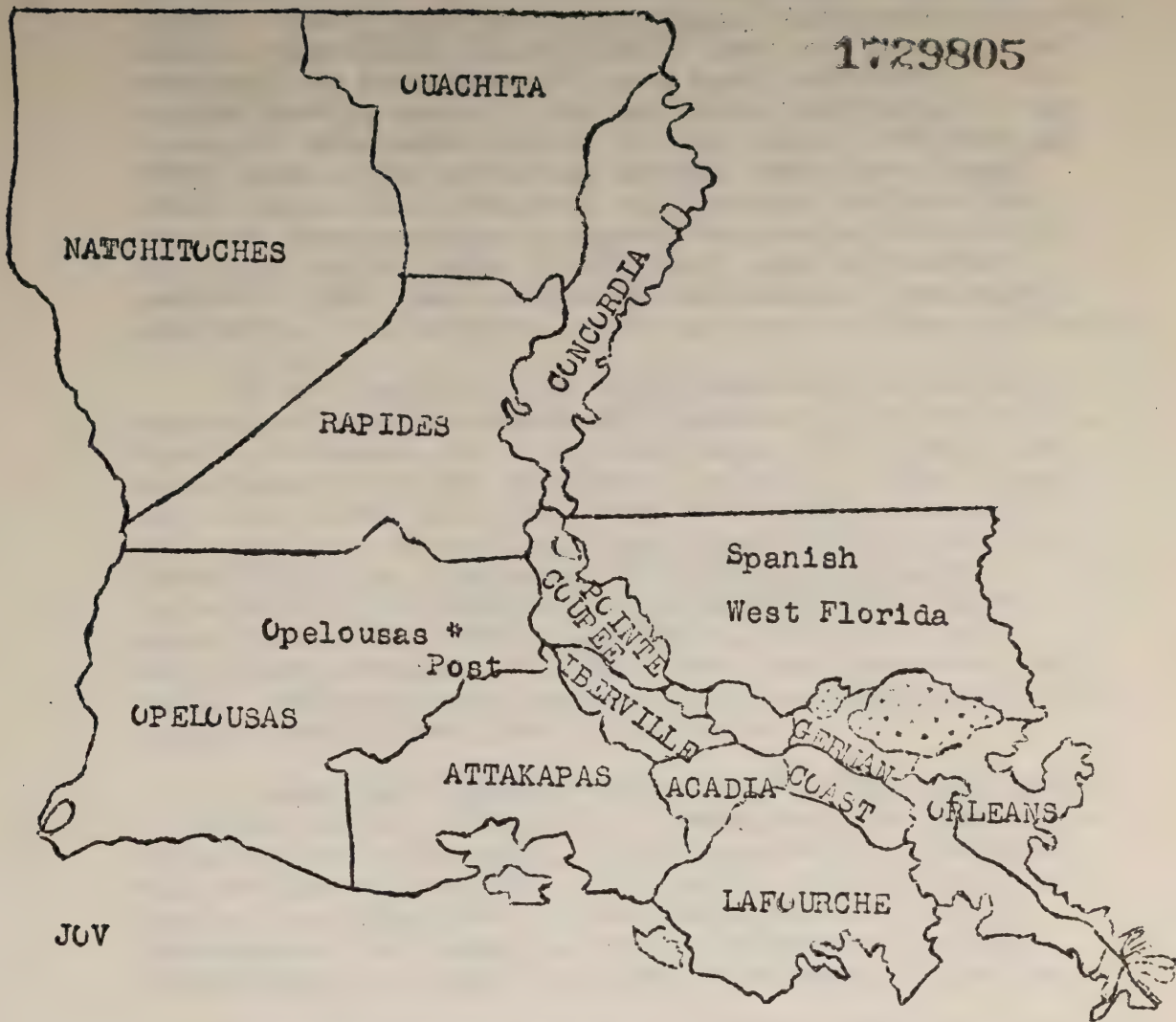
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MARRIAGE CONTRACTS OF THE OPELOUSAS POST
1766 - 1803

The original counties, each including the
jurisdiction of an early post.

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Jacqueline O. Vidrine
and
Winston De Ville

NEW ORLEANS TERRITORY, 1804



The twelve original counties, each including the approximate area of jurisdiction of an early post.

FOREWORD

This is, as far as we know, the first serious attempt to put order in the chaos of records in the archives of one of Louisiana's earliest important posts - the Poste des Opeloussas. Although this manuscript represents only a small part of the archival records, we feel that it is a real beginning. Included herein are all the marriage contracts in the formerly unindexed papers of the years 1766 through 1803, and a few certified copies that have found their ways into libraries and private collections. Most of them are the original documents; others are official copies made during that same historical period. This publication is composed of translated abstracts; the original records were written in French.

We are grateful for help received: training in historical and genealogical research given by Mrs. L. Austin Fontenot, Jr., of Opelousas, Louisiana; the assistance with the glossary, by Mr. A. Otis Hebert, Jr., Associate Editor of the Louisiana Historical Association publication, Louisiana History, and Dr. Hosea Phillips, Professor of Foreign Languages, University of Southwestern Louisiana; and the cooperation of Mr. Henry Lastrapes, Clerk of Court, St. Landry Parish. Our families, too, deserve gratitude. Without their patience and encouragement, this project would have been impossible.

A deep and sincere "thank you" is due Dr. Edwin A. Davis and Mr. John C. L. Andreassen for their invaluable contributions. They deserve the thanks of all who love Louisiana - Dr. Davis, because he has been a true champion of Louisiana history, and Mr. Andreassen, for being as true a champion for the preservation of the historical archives of the land.

Our work, begun in April of 1959, has reached the stage where we can share it with others. Now all our time can be put on the study of the other old chronicles of history in the St. Landry Parish Courthouse. Work has already begun. In subsequent volumes, there will be one major change: instead of grouping the documents according to type (i.e., successions, land sales, etc.) they will be arranged chronologically, thus forming a continuous record of the ancient settlement during the colonial period.

Winston De Ville

Jacqueline C. Vidrine

Ville Platte
August, 1960

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INTRODUCTION

It is good to find and to note the growing interest in the public records of the Colony of Louisiana, Orleans Territory, of our State, and of its communities, which seems to be developing at last, and which this publication illustrates. There is much more to be done in St. Landry and in the twenty-nine other parishes which have colonial and territorial records. A statewide program of action for the better protection of these records and for better service of them, is carefully outlined in the Louisiana Archives Survey Report No. 2, Findings and Recommendations, p.20, May, 1956. Until that program is initiated, these translated abstracts will provide clear indication of the rich resource for local historical research and writing which are still with us. Let us hope that the example set here by Winston De Ville and Jacqueline Olivier Vidrine will cause others throughout the State to search out these source materials and to use them in reconstructing the story of civilization in these areas.

John C. L. Andreassen

Baton Rouge
August 1960

"OLD IMPERIAL SAINT LANDRY"

"Old Imperial Saint Landry" is one of the most fabulous names in all the broad and dramatic expanse of Louisiana history. It is a name that conjures up long forgotten memories of the still older districts of the Opelousas and the Atakapas, of the entire region of southwest Louisiana, with its French, Spanish, Acadian, and American heritage, whose sons have fought in all America's wars beginning with the Revolution and who have labored with stubborn and tenacious purpose to create what has been called "the Eden of Louisiana." Other areas within the present state have their historically fabulous past - Pointe Coupee, Fort Miro, Natchitoches, Les Rapides, the Felicianas, the German Coast, Bayou La Fourche, New Orleans - but none surpass that of the section which during the years of French domination was generally called simply the Atakapas Country.

No one knows definitely when the first French settler began permanent residence in the country, but according to legend and the dim records of the middle 1700's it was sometime after the Opelousas Indians and their allies practically exterminated the Atakapas tribes in a great battle fought some few miles west of present-day St. Martinville. It is fairly certain that a few Indian traders had more-or-less fixed habitations in the north-eastern corner of

the region for several years prior to the granting of the Louisiana colony to Spain in 1762. During the governorship of Kerlerec (1757) mention is made of a number of French Canadians and French who settled along the upper Teche, and shortly after Spain acquired the colony a few Acadians and other French opened trading posts and established small farms along the bayous.

In the fall of 1769, Spanish Governor Alejandro O'Reilly ordered Captain Don Eduardo Nugent and Lieutenant Don Juan Kelly to lead an expedition to the Atakapas, Opelousas, Natchitoches, and El Rapido districts and to report on the number and character of the inhabitants, their settlement, and their livestock possessions. In their report the two officers wrote glowingly of the region: "The land between the estates consists of spacious prairies covered with admirable grazing of very high and slender grass which is free from thistle and thorn, etc Hence the inhabitants maintain everything imaginable in the way of live stock, such as cows, horses, and sheep. . . . The products raised at present are rice, corn, and sweet potatoes. . . . The inhabitants are not indolent and among them there are some industrious Acadians, who already have a good start to an establishment which promises to be very useful in the lines of agriculture and cattle-raising.

These people live in great tranquility and accord, are law-abiding, and are well satisfied with the present administration and the kindness of the Government." Near the end of the report the officers wrote that the Acadians were very industrious and that their women "also work hard; from cotton they make very good cloth for their clothes. They also manufacture stockings and finer cloth like that made from flax."

The total population of the area, according to Nugent and Kelly, was a few over 500 persons, including 148 slaves. The inhabitants of the Opelousas district owned over 2400 cattle, nearly 650 horses, nearly 700 hogs, approximately 200 sheep, 38 goats, 12 mules, and 3 "donkeys," while those of the Atakapas section possessed over 1300 cattle, nearly 270 horses, 565 hogs, and 18 sheep, but had no mules, "donkeys," or goats. By 1799 the Atakapas and Opelousas districts had a total population of over 12,000.

It is generally believed that Jacques Courtaubieu was the first commandant of "El Poste de Opelousas" and of the district then comprising the whole of southwest Louisiana; it is certain that he was a "capitaine" of the Opelousas area. He was succeeded by Gabriel Fusilier de la Claire, who by 1772 was considered one of the richest men of the area in lands, herds, and slaves. Other distin-

guished commandants or military officials of the district during the Spanish years included Alexandre de Clouet, Nicolas Forstall, Etienne Robert de la Morandiere, and Martin Duralde. By the time of the purchase of Louisiana by the United States there were Spanish, French Creole, Acadian and American families in various sections of the region.

During the first session of the Territorial Legislative Council in 1804-05, by an act approved April 10, 1805, "Old Imperial Saint Landry" was divided into two counties, Opelousas and Atakapas, the act stipulating that "the County of Opelousas shall comprehend the Parish of Saint Landry, commonly called the parish of Opelousas." Two years later when the Territory of Orleans was divided into nineteen parishes, the act stated that "the Parish of Saint Landry in the Opelousas, shall form the eighteenth." Since that time the parishes of Evangeline, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Acadia and Cameron, have been carved from the original parish.

The "golden" years of the ante bellum period saw the development of plantations, stock farms, and even ranches. At the beginning of the period William Darby wrote that "few spots on the globe of an equal extent, exhibit more diversity of sur-

face, or a greater variety of soil and vegetable production, than does Opelousas. . . . The settlements begin on the alluvion of the Courtableau, Boeuf, and Teche; but are numerous, and compact, on the region contiguous to the above, but within the prairie tract. The land in both these sections is excellent, timber abundant, and very large. The staples of Opelousas, at this time, are cotton, cattle, hides, tallow, cheese, beef, and pork. .

. . Perhaps some individuals could however be found in Opelousas, who unite more than ever what was done elsewhere: the three natural stages of man's progress, hunting, tending their flocks, and ploughing the glebe." By 1860, according to the census reports, the parish of Opelousas," which by this time had had Calcasieu carved from it, was the third most populous parish in the state, ranking only behind Orleans and Rapides. In that year the total population was 23,104, including 10,703 whites, 965 free negroes, and 11,436 slaves.

The War for Southern Independence came and such outfits as the Opelousas Rifles, St. Landry Light Guards, St. Landry Volunteers, St. Landry Grays, and St. Landry Partisan Rangers marched off to war. While no important engagements were fought in the parish, Opelousas and other sections were occupied for short periods by Union forces. During the Period of

Military Occupation which followed the war and which lasted until 1877, the people of the parish proved a very stubborn group with which the Radical carpet baggers, scalawags, and Negroes had to deal, and on more than one occasion they proved their loyalty to the Southern ideals and the Southern way of life. During the presidential election of 1868, for example, they did not give U. S. Grant a single vote, registering all their 4, 787 votes for Horatio Seymour, the Democratic candidate.

Gilbert L. Dupre later wrote that when the men of St. Landry returned from "the tear-stained hills" of Virginia, "they had their paroles in their breast pockets. They accepted defeat, but they never understood that to mean that their slaves should rule over them. The first attempt, which was the only one in St. Landry, resulted in the carpetbagger being horsewhipped from out the parish; the ring leaders among the negroes promptly arrested and executed. This riot established firmly that, though our soil had been overrun, the spirit of our people was invincible."

The return of home rule to Louisiana and the years since 1877 have witnessed the steady and well-paced growth and development of the old parish of Saint Landry. It sent its sons to the Spanish - American War and to World War I and II. Its agricultural production has grown with the years, be-

cause, as Dupre wrote of its soil, "you tickle it with a hoe and it will smile with a harvest." But the people have been its greatest asset and perhaps Dupre was wholly correct when he wrote: "I love its soil. I love its people. We are cosmopolitan to the core. Originally of French and Acadian descent, the American is now with us. My children are descended from a Connecticut Yankee on the mother's side. That's a good cross. Creole on one side, Yankee on the other. In the crossing of breeds, the best traits predominate in the result."

So throughout the years "Old Imperial Saint Landry" has contributed to the growth and progress of Louisiana, and the words which Gilbert Dupre spoke thirty-five years ago at a meeting of the Louisiana Historical Society in New Orleans are just as true today as they were then: "The old mother, with the breath of a new life dawning upon her, is imperial still."

Edwin Adams Davis

Louisiana State University

GUIDE TO THE ABSTRACTS

- 1- Misspelled terms and proper names follow the spelling of the original.
- 2- In almost all cases, the proposed marriage has not yet taken place. "Bride" refers to the female party of the contract, and "Groom" refers to the male party. The original uses "future spouse."
- 3- "Before," at the beginning of each contract, introduces the one officiating, before whom the contract was drawn.
- 4- Underlined words are transcriptions from the original and are defined in the Glossary of terms. The glossary includes some archaic forms and dialectic variations.
- 5- Some phrases and paragraphs not relevant to the basic data in the contract were left in French.
- 6- The sequence of words in the documents has not been changed. "Native of" follows the proper name as in the original.
- 7- Although "native of" usually refers to the birthplace of the party, it may refer to his last place of residence, or to the native land of his parents.
- 8- An "X" before a proper name in the signature list means that that person signed by his "ordinary mark."
- 9- When a word or when letters in a word were illegible, dashes were used. Words and question marks enclosed in parentheses were supplied by the translators.
- 10- The number appearing in the lower left corner is the original index number. These are disregarded in the new filing system; records will be filed chronologically, as numbered at the bottom of the page: year-month-day.
- 11- The originals are in the St. Landry Parish Courthouse, with these exceptions: pages 15, 27, and 34, Archives Room, Louisiana State University Library; page 28, Archives Room, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University, New Orleans.
- 12- Unquestionably, there were other marriages contracted during this thirty nine year period. It is the hope of the editors that anyone having originals or copies of Opelousas records will return them so that the gaps may be filled.

February 9, 1766

Amable Beaulieu, son of Giles Beaulieu and Therese La Jeunesse.

Stassie Guenard, daughter of feu Molye (?) Guenard and Marie Thibaud.

Accompanied by Joseph Cormier, her cousin germain; Joseph Chretien, Daignau and du Chenne, friends of the groom.

They promise to celebrate their marriage in the church.

Approved by Joseph Chretien and Amable Bertrand dit Beaulieu.

Signed:

X Marie Thibaud

d agneau

X Joseph Cormier

_____ Ecrivain

X Stassie Guenard

X Amable Beaulieu
dit Bertrand

X Joseph Chretien

du chenne

fr: Valentin capi Curé

Not numbered.

July 30, 1771

Noel Soilleau, native of the parish of St. Charles,
German Coast; son of feu Noel Soilleau,
garde magazin du Roi au fort des Natches;
and Marie Joseph Richaume

Angelique Fonteno dit Bellevue, minor daughter of Pierre
Fontenot dit Bellevue,
resident of Opelousas;
and Louise Doucet; native
of the fort des Allabamons.

Witnesses for groom: Robert Lamorandiere and Augustin
Soilleau, his brother and beaufrere.

Witnesses for bride: Pierre Fontenot, her father, and
Marie Louise Doucet, her aunt.

Property of groom: slaves @ 3760 livres.

Property of bride: eleven horned cattle, large and small
@ 300 livres; a sum of 2264 livres en
piastres gourdes; a sum of trois cens
septante six livres given by the groom.

Signed:

Noel Soilleau

Boyez signs for Lamanlbay

Fusilier DelaClaire signs for Pierre Fonteno

Soilleau de lamorandiere

Boyez signs for F. Manne

Augustin Soilleau

Rober de Lamorandiere

fusilier

Fusilier de la Claire

P. Zeringue

Note: George King certifies that this is a true copy
from the original in his office at Opelousas,
June 8, 1810.

May 3, 1777

Before Capne. Commandant pour Le Roy civil et Militaire
Des Postes Attakapas et Oppeloussas.

Jacques Roman, native of la paroisse des Allemands named
St. Charles; son of feu Jacques Roman and
Marie Joseph Daigle.

Marie Louise Patin, daughter of Jacques Patin, native of
Pointe Coupée, and Marie Louise Barré,
residents of Opelousas.

Witnesses for groom: Francois Bossié and Francois Barré,
residents of Opelousas.

Witnesses for bride: Antoine Patin, her cousin Germain;
Jean Baptiste Barré.

Property of groom: four negres @ 250 piastres each; three
negres @ 250 piastres each; two negres
@ 400 piastres together; one negre, two
years old @ 100 piastres; thirty-five
horses @ 220 piastres.

Property of bride: twenty-seven betes-a-cornes @ 162 piastres;
one female colt @ 8 piastres.

Signed:

Jacques Roman

Francois Bossié

Mari Louise Barré

Francois Barré

Antoine Patin

J. Bp. barré

X Jacques Patin

Le Chev. De Clouet

X Mary Louise Patin

no. 39

February 24, 1778

Before Capne. Commandant pour le Roy civile et Militaire
du Poste des Oppeloussas.

Joseph De la Baume, native of Montpellier, parish of
Sainte Marie; son of Joseph De la
Baume and Eliaabeth D'alton.

Marie Kintrek, native of New Orleans, major daughter of
Jean Joseph Kintrek and Marie le Boeuf;
widow of Sieur Saintmont and resident of
this post.

Witnesses for groom: Francois Le Melle and Jacques Patin,
retired officers of the militia.

Witnesses for bride: Luc Hollier and Latiolais.

Property of groom: land, money, slaves, bistaux, land at
Nez Pique; together @ 900 piastres.

Property of bride: habitation at Petit Bois, several
bistaux, slaves; together @ 1200
piastres.

Signed:

Joseph De la baume

Anne Mari le Kientrek

----- Le Melle

Louis Latiolais

L. hollier

Le Chev. De Clouet

no. 26

January 2, 1779

Before Alexandre Chevalier De Clouet, Commandant Civil et Militaire des Postes des Attakapas et Opeloussas.

Jean Baptiste Cormie, resident of this post, native of Acadia.

Anne Blanchard, resident of this post, native of Acadia.

Witnesses for groom: Joseph Grangé and Pierre Richard,
parents et amis.

Witnesses for bride: Victor Richard and Victor Cormié,
parents et amis.

Property of groom: 760 piastres.

Property of bride: 271 piastres and 5 escalins.

Signed:

X J. Bte. Cormier

X Pierre Richard

X Victore Richard

Joseph Grangé

X Anne Blanchard

Le Chev. De Clouet

X Joseph Cormié

no. 60

June 15, 1779

Before Capitaine Commandant Civil et Militaire pour
Le Roy des Postes Attakapas et Opeloussas.

George, Mulatre libre, native of Boston.

Marie Jeanne, Mulatresse libre, born at New Orleans.

"qui (the couple), par default de Contrat de
Mariage lors de leurs etablissement con-
viennent en presence de Messieurs Lemelle et
Gradenigo . . ."

Signed:

X Marie Jeanne

Jorg Bolird

fr. Lemelle

Gradenigo

Le Chev. De Clouet

no. 64

June 16, 1779

Before Alexandre Chevalier De Clouet, Capitaine Commandant Civil et Militaire pour le Roi, le poste des Opelousas.

Francois Marcantel, resident of Opelousas, widower of Dame Soileau.

Perine La Cour, resident of Opelousas, widow of Sieur Roi dit Chatelleron.

Witnesses for groom: De la Morandier and Donato Bello, officers of the Militia.

Witnesses for bride: Loiselle and Frederic.

Property of groom: 1520 piastres.

Property of bride: 8362 piastres.

There was no notary present at the time. The parties drew this contract at the home of the future bride. No one signed. This is the original of two copies.

no. 5

January 16, 1781

Before Alexandre Chevalier De Clouet, Lieutenant Colonel
et Commandant Civil et Militaire des postes
Attakapas et Oppeloussas.

Antoine Langlois, son of Augustin Langlois and Marie
Louise Graveline; native of la prairie
du Rocher poste des Illinois province
de la Louisiane.

Francoise Carriere, native of New Orleans; daughter of
Joseph Carriere and Marie Louise
Lavergne.

Witnesses for groom: Le Melle and Populus, parents et amis.

Witnesses for bride: Gradenig and Clermond, parents et amis.

Property of groom: slaves, cows, horses @ 1470 piastres;
thirty arpents of land at Placmines
Brulées, bounded by the land of Comau
and Bertrand @ 190 piastres.

Property of bride: hardes et effets @ 200 piastres.

Signed:

X Antoine Langlois	Joseph Carriere
X Francoise Carriere	Latiolais
Clermond	X la Caze
Fr. Lemelle	X Dame Vve. la Londe
Joseph Miler	Donato Bello
J Chevalier	Gradenigo
Le Chev. Populus	Le Chev. De Clouet

no. 10

October 2, 1781

Before Etienne Robert de la Morandiere, Capitaine de
Milice et Commandant par interim de Poste des
Opeloussas.

Jean George Stelly, native of la paroisse St. Jean
des Allemann dans cette province;
son of Jean George Stelly and
Christine Belmeyer.

Marie Barbe Miller, native of Paroisse Frederic in
Maryland; daughter of Jacob Miller
and Anne Marie Degin.

Witnesses for groom: Antoine Langlois and Joseph Miller.

Witnesses for bride: Donato Bello, Major officer and
sous-lieutenant of the Infantry;
and Michel Prud'home.

Property of groom: five arpents of frontage at Grands
Coteaux; some land bordered by
Francois Stelly, his brother, and
Michel Cormier; thirty cows @ 220
piastres; six taures @ 40 piastres;
moveables and garderobe @ 100 piastres.

Signed:

X j george Stelly, fils	X Michel Prud'homme
X Marie Barbe Miller	Donato Bello
Jacob Miller	Etienne Robert de la Morandier
Joseph Miller	----- (Miller?)
X Antoine Langlois	Le Chev. De Clouet

no. 35

January 14, 1782

Joachim Ortega, Comisione du Magazen d'artillerie
de Panzacola.

Mademoiselle Soto de St. Denis, daughter of Marie
de St. Denis Soto.

The groom receives from Marie de St. Denis Soto "500
piastres en une Negresse esclave criolle
nomme Margarite Landu agee de trente deux
ans et au faite atour ce qu'il faut faire
dans une Maison en quatre cents cinquante
piastres et trois vaches douze avec ses
suivants en cinquante piastres pour entrer
au Mariage que dans se meme jour il doit
etre execute et verifie par moi et la dit
ma future epouse....."

Signed:

Marie de St. denis

Joaquim(n?) Ortega

Noel Soileau

Auguste Soileau

Esteven De Lamorandier

This document is not a true marriage contract, but a
Reconnaissance.

Not numbered

Done at Apelousas

February 17, 1782

Before Alexandre Chevalier de Clouet, Lieutenant
Colonel et Commandant Civil et Militaire des Postes
Attakapas et Opeloussas.

Luke Collins, native of Hampshire County, Virginia; son
of Luke Collins and Sara White.

Zoe Courtableau, minor daughter of feu Jacques Courtableau,
during his lifetime Capitaine de Milice
et Commandant par interim of the Opeloussas
Post; and Marguerite Kintrek; native of
this post.

Witnesses for groom: Luke Collins, his father and mother
(Luke Collins and Sara White, his
father and mother); Gradenigo and
Le Melle.

Witnesses for bride: De La Baume, her tutor; Dame La Baume,
her aunt; Luc Hollier and his wife,
the bride's beau-frere and sister.

Property of groom: negre Thomas @ 500 piastres; three
horses de tire @ 150 piastres; household
goods for use in a home @ 150 piastres;
two pieces of land at Natchez of four
hundred arpents @ 200 piastres.

Property of bride: habitation of eleven arpents de face
and eighty of depth, ... la
continuation de 40 accorde par le
Gouvernement General on which a house
sur sol of thirty feet in length and
twenty in width is located, not counting
the gallery, a magazin fifty feet x
twenty feet on which is a moulin a Pignons,
a kitchen of forty feet x fourteen feet
with its clotures, situated at le Petit
Bois @ 800 piastres; fifty horned
animals of all ages and sex, not counting
the calves de l'annee @ 600 piastres;
two juments and one horse de tire @
50 piastres.

(continued on next page)

(continued)

Signed:

Luke Collins	X Zoe Courtableau
Sarah Collins	L. hollier
De La Baume	----- LeMelle
Kientrk la baume	Chas.(?) Percy(?)
Gradenigo	Theo. Collins
Donato Bello	John Collins
Brunet	Sarah Collins
Wm.(?) Collins	Le Chev. De Clouet

no. 37

July 2, 1782

Before Alexandre Chevalier De Clouet, Lieutenant Colonel
and Commandant of the posts of Attakapas and
Oppeloussa.

Inventory done in preparation for the marriage of
Pierre Guillory to Marie Joseph Fontenau.

Appraisers of the property of Pierre Guillory: Michel
Brignac and Dauguemary de Morand.

PROPERTY -

- 1- three arpents of land situated at Oppeloussas in the
quarter called de plaisance "sur la profondeur ordinaire,"
having on it one house of poteaux en terre twenty four
feet long by twelve feet with a galery(porch) all around
"murier chenen blanc et couverture en cipie" also un
magasin de poteaux en terre sixteen feet long by twelve
feet wide entouré de pieux with a field of two arpents
@ 200 piastres.
 - 2- three slaves @ 1700 piastres.
 - 3- six cows avec leur suivantes @ 108 piastres.
 - 4- two cows sans suivants @ 30 piastres.
 - 5- one genisse and one taureau of one year @ 12 piastres.
 - 6- four bulls of two years and ten bulls of three years
@ 198 piastres.
 - 7- two horses de monture @ 40 piastres.
 - 8- two potres of two years @ 20 piastres.
 - 9- one jument and its suiuant and one pouliche of one year
@ 20 piastres.
 - 10- one charrete @ 12 piastres
 - 11- two hachets, two pairs of scissors, two hoes @ 6 piastres.
 - 12- nine small pigs, male and female, @ 27 piastres.
 - 13- une terre a la prairie des deux Marais of ten arpents of
face with ordinary depth @ 50 piastres.
 - 14- debts to Sr. Guillooy @ 12 piastres.
-
- TOTAL: 2435 piastres

Signed:

Dauguemeny de Morand Pierre Guillory

Michel Brignac Brunet Donato Bello

no. 39

May 8, 1783

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lt. Colonel,
commandant civile et militaire des postes des
Attakapas et Oppeloussas.

Louis Dutisn , ancien officier d'infanterie; son of
feu Louis Dutisne, former captain in
the service of his very Christian
Majesty; and Therese Neveu, native of
Canada.

Rosalie Charlotte Barr , widow of Francois Bossier.

Witnesses for groom: De gruy and Berard.

Witnesses for bride: Ducrest and Roquiny.

Property of groom: 1000 piastres.

Property of bride: as listed in the inventory at the
death of Sr. Bossier.

Signed:

Charlotte Barr  V Bossie

Degruy

Louis Dutisn 

Berard

Ducrest

Le Chev. De Clouet

Roquigny fils

July 4, 1783

Before Alexandre Chevalier De Clouet, Lt. Col., Commandant civil et militaire des postes Attakapas et Apeleosas.

Jean Baptiste Malvot; son of Jean Malvot, native of the parish of St. Pierre de Lande, Diocese de Xaintes; and Jeanne Boucherau.

Perrine Tesson; daughter of Jean Tesson and Marie Desmoulins; native of Opelousas.

Witnesses for groom: Pop----- (Populus?), ancien officier reforme and Antoine Langlois, ses amis au default de parens.

Witnesses for bride: Charles La Caze and Olivier Benoit.

Property of groom: four negroes @ 1200; four negresses @ 1200; ninety horned cattle @ 900 piastres; five horses @ 100 piastres; thirty-three arpents of land @ 300 piastres.

Property of bride: Mulatresse, Marie Louise @ 100 piastres; thirty horned cattle @ 300 piastres; two jumens @ 24 piastres; hardes, meubles, et effets @ 300 piastres.

Signed:

Donato Bello

X An. Langlois

Ma / —

X Olivier Benoit

Brunet

Le Chev. Popuuu (Populus?)

X Perrine Tesson

Le Chev. De Clouet

X J. Tesson

X Dame Desmoulins

no. 104

July 26, 1783

Before Alexandre Chevalier De Clouet, Lt. Colonel,
Commandant Civil et Militaire des Postes Attakapas
et Opeloussas.

Ennemond Meuillon, retired officer of the militia of the
Pointe Coupée post, now resident of
this district; native of Moizan; son
of Ennemond Meuillon and Claudine
Barrat.

Jeanne Chevalier, native of Kas(Kaskaskia?), Illinois;
daughter of feu Andre Chevalier, during
his lifetime garde magazin du Roi in
Illinois; and Dame le Kintrect; widow of
Jacques La mothe.

Witnesses: Louis Chachere, Jean Gradenigo, and Joseph
Modena.

Signed:

J Gradenigo

Jeanne Poirret Meullion

L. Chachere

Joseph Modena

Na. Forstall

no. 11

January 10, 1785

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Colonel, Commandant
Civil et Militaire des postes Attakapas et
Opeloussa.

Laurent Bailly, native of Louisiana; son of feu Joseph
Bailly and Marie Barbe.

Marie Louise Barré, native of New Orleans; widow of
Sieur Patin; daughter of Paul Barré
and Jeanette Girardi.

Witnesses for groom: Pierre Zeringue, Martin Duralde and
Luc Hollier.

Witnesses for bride: Charles Barré, Francois Brunet, all
residents of this district.

The groom owes the bride 2400 piastres, which is claim-
able at his death.

Signed:

X Laurent Bailly

L hollier

F Brunet

C Barre

Pierre Zeringue

M l barre v patin

no. 59

April 11, 1785

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lt. Colonel,
Commandant Civil et militaire des Postes
Attakapa et Opeloussas.

Jean Francois Escouffie, major son of Jean Louis
Escouffie and Elizabeth
Catherine Pavin; native
of Marseille in Provence.

Jeanne La Mothe, daughter of feu Jacques la Mothe
and Jeanne Poiret.

They were previously married in the Catholic Church
but were not able to make a contract
until now.

Witnesses for groom: Luc Collins, fils; fr. Brunet.

Witnesses for bride: Luc Hollier and Florentin Poiret.

Property of groom: three slaves @ 1500 piastres; one
plantation @ 300 piastres; ten cows and
nine horses @ 200 piastres; une -er-e
avec des a-e-ts @ 300 piastres.

Property of bride: 494 piastres and $6\frac{1}{2}$ escalins from the
succession of her father; garderobe
@ 100 piastres; groom owes bride 900
piastres, which she may collect at
his death.

Signed:

Jean Francois Escouffie	-. Meullion
Jeanne La mothe	L. hollier
Desbordes hollier	Luke Collins Jr.
f. Brunet	Le Chev. De Clouet
poiret Meullion	

(two copies)
one copy no. 3

June 14, 1785

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lt. Colonel et
Commandant civil et militaire des postes
Atakapas et Opelhousas.

Jean Guedris, native of Marilaine in New England; son
of Jean Baptiste Guedris and Agnes Dupuis.

Marie Magdelaine Brau, native of Assumption Parish at
the post named la fourche sur le
fleuve.

Witnesses for groom: Francois Broussard and Silvain
Broussard.

Witnesses for bride: Joseph Babin and Claude Martin.

Property of groom: seventeen betes-a-cornes @ 170 piastres;
nine horses @ 90 piastres.

Property of bride: bistaux @ 150 piastres; four arpents
of land at Vermillon on the grande
prairie, bounded on one side by her
father, Firmin Brau, and on the other
by Joseph Broussard en avant donairie
@ 90 piastres.

Contracted at the residence of the commandant.

Signed:

X Jean guedris

X Firmain Braut

X Francois Broussard

X Jean Baptiste Broussard

X Claude Martin

Le Chev. De Clouet

X Agnes Braut, future epouse (obviously an error)

X Silvain Braussar

Joseph Babin

Ducrest

no. 60

July 6, 1785

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lt. Colonel Commandant
Civil et militiare des Poste Attakapas et
Opeloussas.

Jacob Will, native of ingflin in Bavire; son of Jacob Will
and Dame Barbare.

Dame Marie Therese, native of Havana.

Witnesses: Fr. Marcantel; Bp. Georgias; Henry Hergeroder
and Hoffbauer.

Married: March 28, 1785.

Groom is widow of Elizabeth Estoutz, the issue of the
marriage being: Michel, Pierre and Guillaume.
The partage of goods was done November 3, 1784.

Property of groom: interest in the succession of his wife.

Property of bride: cattle and money @ 200 piastres.

Signed:

Jacob Will

X Marcantel

Bp. Georgias

X Marie Therese

Le Chev. De Clouet

no. 61

July 21, 1786

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lt. Colonel,
Commandant Civil et militaire des Attakapas
et Opeloussas.

Jean Gallot, native of Bordeaux in Guianne, paroisse
de St. Michel; son of Jean Gallot and
Marguerite Mazeveilla.

Julie, fille naturelle of Marie Jeanne, Carterrone Libre
et native aux Allemands sur la fleuve.

Witnesses for groom: Robin Medecin and Brunet.

Witnesses for bride: Duralde and Le Melle.

Property of groom: interest in the heritage from his
parents, and two horses @ 40 piastres.

Property of bride: ten meres vaches @ 200 piastres;
garderobe and other moveables @
150 piastres.

Signed:

X Jean Gallot

Mn. Duralde

F. Lemelle

X Julie, Carterrone Libre

Robin md

f. Brunet

X Marie Jeanne

Le Chev. De Clouet

no. 69

October 26, 1786

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lieut. Colonel,
Commandant des Postes Opeloussas et Attakapas.

Julien LeSassier, officer of the infantry in the service
of His Catholic Majesty; son of Charles
LeSassier and Genevieve Galard; native of
New Orleans.

Sara Collins, daughter of Luc Collins, Major au Service de
Troupe Provinciale De La Grand Bretagne dans
la Province de la Virginie and Sara White;
twenty years old.

Witnesses for groom: David Lejeune, Jean Gradenigo and
S(t.) Marc Darby.

Witnesses for bride: Luc Collins pere, Luc Collins fils,
Theophile Collins; Jean Collins,
Guillaume Collins and Charles Percy.

Property of groom: 6000 piastres in Negroes and other
effects of which 2000 piastres belongs
to his children du premier lit.

Property of bride: one young negre and one young negritte
@ 1000 piastres; one cheveau de caleche
et ses harnois; bed and other moveables
@ 200 piastres.

Signed:

Julien Lesassier

Charles Percy

Luke Collins

D-. Lejeune

Luke Collins Jr.

Sarah Collins Wight

Theo Collins

Sarah Collins

Jn. Collins

-- Marc Darby

Wll. Collins

Gradenigo

Le Chev. De Clouet

(continued on next page)

(continued)

Note: The bride forgot to mention land at Bayou Chicot @ 600 piastres. Signed: J. Lesassier, David Lejeune, Sarah Collins, Le Chev. De Clouet.

Note: February 7, 1803, Sara Collins, widow of feu Julien Lesassier, asks for this contract to be filed in the Commandant's office. Signed: Luke Collins; Sarah C. Le Sassier; Jn. Lesassier fils aîné; Theo Collins; Martin Duralde, Capitaine de et Commandant civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

no. 17

November 5, 1786

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lt. Commandant civil
et militaire des Attakapas et Opeloussas.

Joseph Francoeur, native of Montreal, Canada; son of
feu Jean Baptiste francoeur and
Vr-ule Jutra.

Anne Marie Thibaudot, native of Acadia, widow of Francois
Rivard; daughter of Pierre Thibau-
dot and Anne Marie Aucoin.

Witnesses for groom: Pierre Manuel and Francois Pitre.

Witnesses for bride: Guillaume Bouley and Pierre Joubert,
her neighbors and friends.

Signed:

X Veuve Rivard

B O V L E

X Pierre Joubert

X J. francoeur

X fr. Pitre

joseph guenard

Brunet

Le Chev. De Clouet

On cover: Contract of Marriage between Bapte francoeur
and Dame Ve. Rivard.

no. 44

December 6, 1786

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lieutenant Colonel,
Commandant civil et militaire des Attakapas et
des Opelousas.

Louis Fontenau, native of Alibamons, province of Louisiana;
major son of Jean Fontenau and Marie
Francoise La Grange.

Marie Fontenau, native of Alibamons; daughter of Joseph
Fontenau and Marie Jeanne Brignac; widow of
Laurent Dupre dit Terrebonne.

Witnesses for groom: Le Bray de Gonov, et Brunet.

Witnesses for bride: Baptiste Fontenau and Escouffie.

Property of groom: 1400 piastres in horned-cattle, horses,
jumens, and sheep.

Property of bride: 2000 piastres from the estate of her
desceased husband. The remainder of
the estate goes to their children: Jacques,
Laurent, Antoine, and Eugenie

Signed:

L. Fontenot

X Veuve Terrebonne

Lebray De gonov

Es couffie

B fontenot

Le Chev. De Clouet

Brunet

no. 49

December 30, 1786

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lt. Colonel Commandant
Civil et Militaire des Attakapas et Opeloussas.

Nicolas Rousseau, native of la tremblade en Saintonge,
major son of feu Pierre Rousseau and Marie
(h?)ustel Daniau.

Marie Gradenigo, native of Pensacola, Province of Louisiana,
minor daughter of Jean Gradenigo and
Marguerite Krebs.

Witnesses for groom: Pierre Rousseau, Captain of the
Infantry and Commandant of the
Natchitoches post, the groom's brother;
and Monsieur Verdalay.

Witnesses for bride: Donato Bello, officer of the infantry
and militia; and Martin Duralde, Nc.
st (?) en ce poste.

Property of groom: seven slaves of both sexes @ 5000 piastres;
four and one half arpents of land and
plantation at Natchitoches @ 1500 piastres;
land at Attakapas, quartier of Vermillion-
twenty-five arpents de face, owned
jointly with his said brother, with
cattle @ 2000 piastres.

Property of bride: Negritte, Sophie, six years old @ 400
piastres; moveables, effects and garde-
robe @ 2000 piastres.

Signed:

N. Rousseau

Mn. Duralde

X Marie Gradenigo

Gradenigo

Pierre Rousseau

X Marguerite Krebs Gradenigo

Donato Bello

Le Chev. De Clouet

Werdalay

no. 48

August 1, 1787

Before Dn. Nicolas forstall, Regidor Perpetuel, Commandant
Civil et Militaire des Opeloussas.

Pedro de la Pointe, major son of Jean Baptiste de la
Pointe and Barthe Solin(?).; native
of St. Luc Baramede, Province
d'Andalusie.

Marie Josette Caron, minor of Joseph Caron and Francoise
Prud'homme; native of parish of
I. C. of Opelousas.

Witnesses for groom: Jn. Gradenigo and Joachim Ortega.

Witnesses for bride: Mn. Duralde and Chev. De Villers.

Property of groom: two slaves - Joseph, about 18 years
old and Pierre about 16 years old @
1400 piastres; diverse creances and
one-half of a plantation owned jointly
with Sr. Ortega @ 600.

Property of bride: eighteen meres-vaches @ 360; six vaches
at 90 piastres; seven taures @ 49
piastres; moveables and garderobe @
1000 piastres.

Signed:

Marie josette Caron

Joachin Ortega

Pedro de la Puente

Gradenigo

X Jh. Caron

-- Villiers, fils

francoise prud homme

Mn. Duralde

Nas. Forstall

no. 113

January 3, 1788

Before Nas. forstall

Charles Normand (no parents listed)

Perpetue Aucoin, daughter of Claude Aucoin.

Property of groom: valued @ 1118 piastres.

Property of bride: valued @ 500 piastres

(This document is incomplete.)

November 20, 1788

Before Dn. Nicolas forstall, Regidor Perpetuel, Commandant
Civil et Militaire du Poste des Opeloussas.

Claude Aucoin, native of St. Joseph parish, Acadia; son
of Joseph Aucoin and Anne Trahan.

Marie Brasseux, native of Ste. Famille parish, Acadia;
daughter of Mathieu Brasseux(r?) and
Anne Bellemer; widow of feu Olivier Benoit.

Witnesses for groom: Francois Brunet and Jean Gradenigo.

Witnesses for bride: Florentin Poirer and Claude Chabot.

Property of groom: 125 piastres as stated in the inventory
made par nous November 10, 1788 of 250
piastres, half of which belongs to his
five children by legitimate marriage
with his deceased wife, Marie Joseph
Saunier.

Property of bride: 213 piastres, which is half of the
inventory of the goods of her deceased
husband. The inventory was done December
27, 1787.

Signed:

X Claude Aucoin

Chabot

f. Brunet

Gradenigo

X Dame Ve. Olivier

Nas. forstall

f. Poirer

no. 5

December 31, 1788

Before Dn. Nicolas forstall, Regidor Perpetuel, Commandant Civil and militaire du Poste des Opeloussas.

Antoine Nezat, native of Pointe Coupée; minor son of Pierre Nezat and Magdeleine Provos.

Julie Barre, native of Pointe Coupée post; minor daughter of Charles Barre and Magdeleine Decuir.

Witnesses for groom: Martin Duralde and Nicolas Guenard.

Witnesses for bride: Laurent Bailly and Jacques Roman.

Property of groom: 600 piastres in advance on his future inheritance from his parents; various betes-a-cornes @ 200 piastres.

Property of bride: land of twelve arpents de face at la Vieille Vacherie @ 400 piastres; twenty betes-a-cornes of all ages @ 200 piastres; furniture and hardes @ 400 piastres. Note - The land is given by her parents in advance on her droits paternel et maternel.

Signed:

X Pierre Nezat

X Julie Barre

X Magne. Provot

X Laurent Bailly

C. Barre

Mn. Duralde

Magdeleine Decuire

j. Roman

Nicolas Guenard

Nas. forstall

X Antoine Nezat

no. 3

May 11, 1789

Before Dn. Nicolas forstall, Regidor Perpetuel, Commandant
civil et militaire du poste des Opeloussas.

Joseph Andre Pont, native of Marseille, parish of Notre
Dame des Accoules(?); major son of
Pierre Pont and Magdeleine Heimer.

Marie Therese Langlois, native of Opelousas, minor daughter
of feu Philippe Langlois and Marie
Jeansonne.

Witnesses for groom: Antoine Simian and Jean Ponsony, ses
amis a defaut de parens.

Witnesses for bride: Francois Brunet; Nicolas Maton; Jean
Baptiste Figuron, her beaupere and
tutor and Francois Brunet.

Property of groom: Heritage in the property of his parents.

Property of bride: 195 piastres and $1\frac{1}{2}$ escalins from the
heritage of her parents; various cattle
with her brand @ 200 piastres.

Signed:

Joseph Andrepon

Nicolas Maton

X Therese Langlois

f. Brunet

X Baptiste figuron

J. Ponsony

X Marie Jeansonne

Nas. forstall

Antoine Simien

June 8, 1789

Before Don Nicolas forstall, regidor perpetuel, Cmdt.
civil et Militaire des Opelousas.

George Demarest, native of Pointe Coupee; major son of
feu Francois Demarets and Catherine Duclot;
widower of Marie Silvestre.

Marie Francoise Fontenau, native of Opelousas; daughter of
Pierre Fontenau dit Bellevue, and
Marie Louise Doucet.

Witnesses for groom: Jean Francois Brunet and Pierre Manuel.

Witnesses for bride: Jean Francois Escouffié and Jacques
Deshotels.

Property of groom: twenty-odd horned cattle @ 200 piastres;
horses and jumens and effects proper for
service of a habitation @ 200 piastres.

Property of bride: eleven horned cattle, large and small
@ 100 piastres; a sum of 200 piastres.

Signed:

X Pierre Fontenau

X Georges Demaret

X Louise Doucet

X Marie Francoise Fontenau

Pierr Manuel

Jn fr Es Couffié

jacques deshotels

f Brunet

Nas. forstall

no. 113

July 20, 1789

Before Don Nicholas Forstall

Basil Chiasson, native of the parish of Beau Sejour in Acadia; son of Pierre Chiasson and Catherine Bourgeois; widower of Monique Comau.

Anne Marie Thibaudat, native of the parish of Beau Sejour in Acadia; daughter of Pierre Thibodot and Francoise Saunier; widow of Gang Bourg.

Witnesses for groom: Francois Brunet and Ch----Le Brun.

Witnesses for bride: Martin Duralde and Joseph Bourg.

Property of groom: A sum of 545 piastres from the succession of his desceased wife's goods made May 18. The same amount goes to his two children Charles and Adelaide.

Property of bride: A sum of 1454 piastres from the inventory of her desceased husband on August 2, 1788. The same amount goes to their son, Eloi Bourg, a minor.

Signed:

Mn. Duralde

Pierre Thibaudot

Basile Chiasson

Francois Brunet

Joseph Bourque

Nicolas Forstall

Thomas Bring

X Anne Marie Thibaudot

June 15, 1790

Before Dn. Nicolas forstall, Regidor Perpetuel de la
Nouvelle Orleans, Commandant Civil et Militaire
du Poste des Opeloussas.

Elisée Muissonniere, minor son of feu Jean Baptiste
Muissonniere and feue Marie Joseph
Savoye; native of Pointe Coupée;
under the authority of Joseph Jean-
sonne, his beaufrere and tutor.

Celeste Saunier, minor daughter of Silvain Saunier and
Magdelaine Bourg; native of Opelousas.

Property of groom: Negre Augustin, age 25, @ 400; ten
betes-a-cornes @ 50 piastres; five
chevaux and jumens @ 30 piastres.

Property of bride: ten meres vaches @ 120 piastres; une
paire de boeufs domtès @ 30; one
cheval domtès and one jument @ 30
piastres; meubles and garderobe @
200 piastres.

Signed:

X Silvain Saunier	f Brunet
X Elisée Muissonniere	X Dame Silvain Saunier
X Joseph Jansonne	B Lassabe(Lassale?)
X Celeste Saunier	J Chevalier
Basile Chaisson	Nas. forstall
X Charles Comau	

no. 163

1729805

November 25, 1791

Before Dn. Nicolas forstall, Regidor Perpetuel de la
Nelle. Orleans, Commandant civil et militaire du
Poste des opeloussas.

Pierre Louis fonteneau, native of this post, parish of
Immaculate Conception; minor son
of feu Joseph Fonteneau dit Bellair,
inhabitant of this post while alive,
and Marie Jeanne Brignac.

Marie Joubert, minor daughter of Pierre Joubert and Catherine
Pitre; native of this post and parish.

Witnesses for groom: Louis Guillory and Francois Brunet.

Witnesses for bride: Francois Pitre and Pierre Pitre.

Property of groom: Negre, Charles, from the succession of
his father @ 493 piastres and 6 reaux;
forty-seven head of cattle @ 175 piastres;
eighty betes-a-cornes @ 200 piastres;
three cheveaux de selle and five mares @
80 piastres; five arpents of land de face
sur la profondeur ordinaire at la grande
Pointe de Mr. Jean Louis fontenot @
50 piastres.

Property of bride: ten meres vaches given by her parents @
70 piastres; one cow and two suiivants
and one horse dompte at 30 piastres;
furniture and garderobe @ 120 piastres.

Signed:

X Pierre Joubert

X Louis Fontenot

X Catherine Pitre

X Marie Joubert

X Marie Jeanne Brignac

X Francois Pitre

X Pierre Pitre

louis Guillory

L. Fontenot

f. Brunet

Nas. forstall

February 16, 1793

Before Nicolas Forstall, Regidor perpetuel, Commandant
civil et militaire du poste des opeloussas.

Francois Fonteneau, native of this post; son of Philipe
fonteneau and Marie Brignac.

Therese Jacob Aigle, minor daughter of feu Jacob Aigle and
Marton Paquet; born at Mobile, province
of Louisiana.

Married: February 12, 1793.

Witnesses for groom: Jean Gradenigo and Louis Reliquet.

Witnesses for bride: stipulates under the authority of
Pierre Manuel, her tutor, in the
absence of her mother; Philipe Boutté
and Louis Chachere.

Property of groom: one hundred boeufs, vaches ou chevaux
@ 700 piastres; one plantation of fourteen
arpents de face a la prairie vulgairement
appellée "Jose toro" @ 300 piastres;

Property of bride: 200 piastres; other goods @ 100 piastres.

Signed:

X Therese Jacob aigle

X Francois Fonteneau

P. Boutté

Pierre Manuel

J. Gradenigo

Louis Reliquehie

L. Chachere

X Marie Brignac

no. 4

September 6, 1793

Before Dn. Nicolas Forstall, Regidor perpetuel de la
Nouvelle Orleans, Commandant civil et militaire
des opeloussas.

Henry fonteneau, son of Pierre fonteneau and Louison doucet.

Eugenie Soileau, daughter of Baptiste Soileau and Marie
Jeanne de Vidrine.

Witnesses for groom: Authorized by his parents, assisted
by Francois escoffie and Jacques
fonteneau.

Witnesses for bride: authorized by her parents, assisted
by Baptiste de Vidrine and Auguste
Soileau.

Property of groom: none

Property of bride: garderobe @ 100 piastres; 200 piastres
borrowed by the groom.

Signed:

Auguste Soileau

f.cois Escouffie

D(?) Soileau

X Eugenie Soileau

X Simr. fonteneau

Nas. forstall

X henry foteno

X Bte. Vidrine

(Dated on cover: ...bre. 16, 1794)

no. 19

December 16, 1794

Before Dn. Nicolas Forstall, Regidor perpetuel de la
Nouvelle Orleans, Command. civil et Militaire des
Opeluussas.

Ennemond Meullon, retired officer of the militia of the
Pointe Coupée post, today resident in
this district, native of Moizan(?) in
Dauphine, eveche of Grenoble; son of
Ennemond Meullon and Claudine Barrat.

Jeanne Chevalier, native of Kas(?) in Illinois; daughter
of feu Andre Chevalier, during his life-
time garde magasin du Roi in Illinois,
and feu Dame le Kintrect; widow of
Jacques la mothe.

Witnesses for groom: F. le Melle and F. Brunet.

Witnesses for bride: Joseph Chevalier and Luc Hollier.

Property of groom: Plantation of forty arpents of frontage;
cattle with HD brand, one hundred
fifty head; twenty horses; six slaves.

Property of bride: 2158 piastres, half of which is for the
care of the children of her first marriage.

Signed:

--- Meullon

F. LeMelle

F. Brunet

Jeanne Chevalier ep. du Sr. Meullon

no. 105

(This document is a ratification of the original.)

September 30, 1795

Before Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice and Commandant civil et Militaire.

Pierre Forest, native of St. Malo; major son of Jacques Forest and Marguerite Genevieve Comau.

Marie Francoise Fontenau, widow of feu Pierre Pitre; daughter of Henry Fontenau and Marie Louise Doucet.

Witnesses for groom: Florentin Poiret and Denys Lib..(?).

Witnesses for bride: Jean Gradenigo and Jean Ponsony.

Property of groom: cows and calves; three bulls; one horse, six years old; one jument, four years old; seven moyen cochons.

Property of bride: Future paternal and maternal rights.

The bride declares that by her first marriage with feu Pierre Pitre she had two children: Pierre and Joseph, future heirs of their paternal grandparents.

This contract was done au domicile de la Dame Veuve Pierre Pitre at Opelousas.

Signed:

X Veuve Pierre Pitre

Deni Liberge

X Sieur Fontenau

Jean Gradenigo

X Francois Pitre

f Poiret

-- Ponsony

Pierre forest

no. 68

February 6, 1796

Before Martin (Duralde), Capitaine de milice et
commandant militaire des Opeloussas.

Baptiste Meuillon, ----- libre; natural son of Marianne
Meu---; major; native of the parish
of St. ----- des Allemands.

Celeste Donat Bello, nat--- daughter of Marie Jeanne
Donat, mulatresse -----.

Witnesses for groom: Martin Donat Bello, Ge---, Antoine
Dubroquas.

Witnesses for bride: Jacques desbor---; ----- Fontenau;
Antoine Paillet.

Property of groom: four slaves; 1000 piastres in the hands
of Sr. Vivant of New Orleans; Lettres a
compte de l'habitation --- lui a vendu
sous-sing prive et --- laquelle reside le
dt. futur epoux; twelve place-settings of
silver with two cuilleres a ragout @ 90
piastres; two lits garnis @ 50 piastres;
three chevaux de montures @ 75 piastres;
various utensils and movables @ 100 piastres.

Property of bride: eighty betes-a-cornes, large and small
marked CF @ --; twenty horses @ 210 piastres;
land of twelve arpents @ 60 piastres, sit-
uated at Bois de Mallet; 60 piastres
gourdes in specie; various movables such
as one lit garni, bijouteries, and one
garderobe @ 300 piastres. The groom adds
to her property 400 piastres because of his
good and sincere love.

Signed:

Celeste Donato

Mn. Duralde

gorge Bollard

Baptiste Neu---

A. Dubroqua

Mn. Dto.-----

J. B. fontenot

J. Deborde-

Paillet

no. 178

(This document is in bad repair.)

February 16, 1796

Before Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice, Commandant
Civil et Militaire du poste des Opeloussas.

Louis Carriere, son of Jean Carriere and feu Dame
Chauffert, native of New Orleans.

Louise Gradenigo, daughter of Jean -----, de Venise and
Marguerite (Krebs); native of this post.

Witnesses for groom: Guillome Despau son beau-----; Julien
LeSassier Comm----- Milice of this post.

Witnesses for bride: ----- Gradenigo, her father; Augustin
Gradenigo; Joseph Bourg.

Property of groom: Three negroes @ 1500 piastres; fifteen
arpents of land, bought from Despau @
150 piastres; 2150 piastres from the
heritage of his deceased parents.

Property of bride: One young Mulatresse, about seven years
old, @ 200 piastres; garderobe and other
moveables @ 200 piastres; groom owes
bride 3--- piastres which may be collected
at his death.

Signed:

Louis Carrier

J LeSassier

Lize Gradenigo

Jh. Gradenigo

Jean Gradenigo

Mn. Duralde

Gme. Gradenigo

Joseph Bourg

Augustin Gradenigo

no. 104 (In bad repair)

February 18, 1797

Before don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de milice et Commandant civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

Auguste Comeau, native of this parish, minor son of Charles Comeau, of this post; and Anastasie Savoie.

Celeste Sonnier, native of this parish, widow of Elize Missonier; daughter of Sylvain Sonnier and Magdeleine Bourg.

Witnesses for groom: Charles Comeau, his father; Louis Carriere and Jean Gradenigo.

Witnesses for bride: Joseph Bourg, son propre oncle; Ethienne de Lamorandiere fils, Captain of the Militia.

Property of groom: eleven cows and calves @ 88 piastres; four boeufs @ 24 piastres; horses of different ages @ 68 piastres.

Property of bride: one half of the amount of the inventory made at the death of Elize Missonier, her husband, on May 1, 1794. The other part is for her minor children by that marriage: Elize and Emeran Missonier.

Signed:

X Augte. Comeau

L. Carriere

X Veuve Missonier

J. Gradenigo

Estevan De Lamorandier

Charles Comeau

Joseph Bourque

Delamorandier fils

Mn. Duralde

no. 64

July 16, 1797

Before don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et Militaire
de ce poste.

Jean Baptiste Castille, natif d'Iberville de cette province
de la Louisianne, son of feu Joseph
Castille and Osic Landry.

Julie Stelly, native of this post, daughter of Francois
Stelly and Marie Therese Berthelot.

Witnesses for groom: Osic Landry, his mother; Jacques Roman
and Francois Roquigny.

Witnesses for bride: Francois Stelly, her father; Gilbert
Amye and Paul Roquigny.

Property of groom: two meres vaches from the succession of
his father @ 16 piastres; one lit garni,
de la vaisselle and other household goods
@ 16 piastres; gift from his mother @
30 piastres; one arpent de face on both
sides of Bayou Tech bounded by Joseph
Castille, his brother, and on another
side by the land of his mother @ 40
piastres; fifty betes-a-cornes, large
and small, including twenty-five Betes
cavalines @ 505 piastres; cash @ 150
piastres.

Property of bride: five meres vaches with calves @ 40
piastres; Negro, Louis, age 18, creol @
600 piastres; one Negresse, Marguerite,
about 16 years old, creole @ 500 piastres;
five arpents of land to be chosen either
at La prairie des femmes or at l'endroit
qu'occupe Ms. son pere @ 100 piastres;
one bed tout monté @ 25 piastres; forty
three betes-a-cornes of all ages @ ---;
another sum @ 197 piastres.

Signed:

X Frans. Stelly

Julis Stely

Jean Baptiste Castille

f. Roquignie

X Dame Castille

j. Roman

Gillebert Amye

P. Roquigny

Mn. Duralde

August 19, 1797

Before Dn. Julien Lesassier, Capitaine des Grenadiers de la Legion Royale du Micissippi et Commandant par interim de ce poste.

Pierre Richard, widower of Marguerite Dugas.

Izabelle Ocoin, widow of Jean Baptiste Le Blanc.

Witnesses: Jean Baptiste Peytavin, Pierre Voisin, Antoine Dubroqua, Jean Henry Lastrapes.

Property of groom: two arpents of land at Cartier de Belle Vue bounded d'en haut by Victor Richard and dans le bas by the children of the said Pierre Richard.

Property of bride: two (four ?) arpents of land bounded by Baptiste Duplechin on one side and on the other by the children of the said Pierre Richard.

Signed:

X Pierre Richard

X Isabelle Ocoin

A. Dubroqua

Jn. Baptiste Peytavin

Pierre Voisin

Jn. Hr. Lastrapes

J Lesassier

Note: Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine du Milice et Commandant civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

J'atteste que j'ai chargé Monsr. Lesassier Commandant des milices du Commandant par interim pendant le tems de la fabrique d'Indigo, et que tout acte qu'il a passé pendant cet intervalle doit valoir en justice comme ailleurs. Aux Opeloussas, le deux octobre de l'Annee mil sept cens quatre vingt dix-sept.

(Signed) Mn. Duralde

no. 65

September 25, 1797

Before dn. Julien Lesassier, Capitaine de Grenadier et
Commandant des milices de ce poste, et maintenant
chargé de interim.

Antoine Regist, mulatre libre, native of Pointe Coupee.

Genevieve Simon, mulatresse libre, native of Pointe Coupee.

Both parties are more than twenty-five years old.

Witnesses: Baptiste Meullion, mulatre libre, Valerien,
mulatre libre; Messieurs Joseph Roy, pere et fils.

Property of groom: 312 piastres; two horses and two mares
@ 65 piastres; one carabine and one
fusil @ 35 piastres; moveables @ 25 piastres.

Property of bride: 110 piastres; plantation of one and one
half arpents de face and forty arpents
de profondeur @ 60 piastres; one negresse,
Therese, Mandigo de nation, about fifty
years old, @ 100 piastres; forty-five
betes-a-cornes @ 190 piastres; household
effects @ 30 piastres.

Signed:

X Antoine Regist

Bte Meullion

X Genevieve

Joseph Roy fils

Valerien Au--im

Julien Lesassier

Joseph Roy

Note: Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de milice et commandant
civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

J'atteste que j'ai chargé monsr. Lesassier
Commandant des milices du commandant par interim
pendant le tems de la fabrique d'Indigo et que
tout acte qu'il a passé pendant cet intervalle
doit valoir en justice comme ailleurs. Aux
Opeloussas, le deux octobre de l'annee mil sept
cens quatre vingt dix-sept.

(Signed) Mn. Duralde

no. 1

no. 14 case

October 20, 1797

Before Julien Lesassier, Commandant des milices du poste
des opeloussas et mintenant chargé de interim.

Antoine Belar, (on cover: Antne. Belard), inhabitant of
this district.

Marie fores, Widow of deceased Baptiste Aucoin, her first
husband.

Witnesses: luc hollier, Jacques deborde, Joseph Roy, and
Guillaume Wimbist.

Property of groom: 915 piastres by the inventory of his
first wife, and 915 piastres to divide
between their four major and four
minor children.

Property of bride: 46 piastres (with Mr. Bara of Pointe
Coupee), half of which goes to the three
children of her first marriage.

Signed:

X Antoine belar

James Wimbish

X Marie fores

J. Deborde

Joseph Roy

L. hollier

Julien Lesassier

Note: Don Martin Duralde Capitaine de milice et Commandant
civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

Je certifie que pour pouvoir vaquer aux interets
de mon habitation, et nuire le moins possible a
ceux de public par mon absence, J'ai chargé du
Commandant par interim monsr. dn. Julien
Lesassier Commandant des milices de ce poste et
que foi doit etre ajoutie a sa signature sur
l'acte precedent. Aux Opeloussas le vingt-trois
Decembre mil sept cens quatre vingt dix-sept.

(Signed) Mn. Duralde

no. 67

November 11, 1797

Before Dn. Julien Lesassier, Capne, Commandant des milices
des opeloussas, et minterant chargé de l'interim.

Joseph Mayeux, of avoyelles, widower and ..fant de ses droits.

Constance hebert, dit Milan; minor and orphan of feu
Philippe hebert, dit Milan, and Elenore
Roy.

Witnesses: Mr. Joseph Roy, her uncle, stipulates for the
bride. Others are Jacques Deborde and Alexis
foltune.

Property of groom: 350 piastres, after the amount given
to his children du premier lit, his
first wife being Adrienne Bordelon.

Property of bride: 200 piastres, in possession of Antoine
Dubroquard her tutor charged with
her goods.

Signed:

X Constance hebert dit Milan

J. Deborde

Joseph Roy

Alexis Fulton

Jh. Mayeux

Julien Lesassier

Note: Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de milice et commandant
civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

Je certifie que pour pouvoir vaquer aux interets
de mon habitation, et nuire le moins possible a
ceux du public par mon absence, J'ai chargé du
Commandant par interim Mons. dn. Julien Lesassier,
Commandant des milices de ce poste et que sa
signature doit faire foi sur l'acte precedent.
Aux Opeloussas le vingt trois Decembre, mil sept
cens quatre vingt dix-sept.

(Signed) Mn. Duralde

no. 3

September 8, 1798

Before Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et Commandant
civil et militaire de ce poste.

Balthazar Marks, widower of Catherine Miller; son of
Balthazar Marks and Marianne Gaspar;
native of the parish of St. Jean Baptiste
sur la rive de Mississippv de la
province de la Louisianne.

Marie Jeanne Trahan, widow of feu Joseph Boutin; daughter
of Isidore Trahan and Magdeleine
Leblanc; native of St. Malo in France.

Minors of the first marriage of the groom: Jean Bte.,
Catherine, Frosine, Liberte, Simon
and Francois.

Witnesses for the groom: Andre Duclot, Francois Robin.

Witnesses for the bride: Berthelemy Dejean and Baptiste
Castille.

Property of groom: 1112 piastres and 5 reaux from the
inventory of his first wife, done
August 1, 1798.

Property of bride: The inventory of her deceased husband
was done July 11, 1797; several betes-
a-cornes; jumens; a little negritte,
Rosalie, about four and one half years
old, born of negresse Charlotte since
this marriage with Balthazar Marks.

Signed:

X Balthazar Marks

Robin

Marie Jeanne Trahan

Dejean

Duclot

Jean Bte. Castille

Martin Duralde

no. 3(?)

October 16, 1798

Before Martin Duralde, Capitaine de milice et Commandant civil et militaire de ce poste.

Louis Lemelle, mulatre ou carteron libre, native of said post, 26 years old, natural son of deceased Francois Lemelle and of Marie Jeanne Lemelle, mulatresse libre.

Celeste Olimpie Grandpres, carteronne libre, native of Pointe Coupee of this province, 17 years old, natural daughter of Charles Grandpres and Jeanette Clapion, free mulatresse.

Witnesses for groom: Marie Jeanne Lemelle, his mother; Messieurs Antoine Dubroquas and Joseph Gradenigo.

Witnesses for bride: Valerien Ozanne, carteron libre, natural brother of the bride, for himself and as representative of their mother, Jeanette Clapion; Jean Gradenigo and Jean Bte. Peytavin.

Property of groom: his rights in the succession of Marie Jeanne Lemelle when she dies.

Property of bride: her garderobe, bed, bijouteries, and other moveable goods @ 900 piastres.

Signed:

Louis Lemelle Marie Jeanne Lemelle Joseph Gradenigo

Olimpie Grandpres A. Dubroqua Jean Gradenigo

Jn. Bape. Peytavin Valerien Ozanne Martin Duralde

(A note signed by George King, Parish Judge, and dated September 11, 1813, states that the foregoing is a correct copy of the original filed in his office.)

March 14, 1799

Before Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et
Commandant civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

Francois Coulon de Villiers, native of New Orleans; son
of Louis Villiers, Capitaine
gradue de milice, and Marie
Genevieve Fontenette.

Francois Langlois, daughter of Antoine Langlois and
Francoise Carriere; native of this post.

The party was married December, 1798.

Witnesses for groom: Louis de Villiers, his father;
Joseph Gradenigo, Lieutenant de
Dragons de Milice.

Witnesses for bride: Antoine Langlois, her father;
Francoise Carriere, her mother;
Jean Gradenigo.

Property of groom: a little negre Celestin, creol of this
post, ten years old @ 250 piastres;
land of four arpents of frontage bounded
on one side by Philippe Lacase and on
the other by his father; six jumens and
one horse @ 30 piastres.

Property of Bride: twelve betes-a-cornes @ 80 piastres; one
lit garni and other goods of use @ 20
piastres; 400 piastres in cash.

Extract from "Property of groom" : Item le tiers qu'il soit
et qui revient a la dame MarieGenevieve sa mere dans
ce moment du restant de la succession de feu Monsr.
Jacques Benit Fontenelle son pere dont la dame Marie
Genevieve Livaudai sa mere veuve en secondes noce de
Monsr. Francois de Villiers Capitaine d'infanterie et
chevalier de St. Louis est comptable.

Signed:

X Dame Langlois Coulon de Villiers Jean Gradenigo

X Antoine Langlois Louis de Villier

Francois Coulon De Villier Jh. Gradenigo

Martin Duralde

no. 5

April 20, 1799

Before Dn. Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et
Commandant civil et militaire de ce poste.

Adam Tete, native of Mobile, dependance de cette province;
son of Adam Tete and Mary hayes.

Marie Louise Fontenot, native of this post; daughter of
Joseph Fontenot and Magdeleine Tray.

Witnesses for groom: Guillaume Bundik fils and Philippe
Jean Louis Fontenot.

Witnesses for bride: Jean Gradenigo and Francois Pitre.

Property of groom: one hundred forty betes-a-cornes @
700 piastres; twelve chevaux et jumens
@ 240 piastres.

Property of bride: twenty cows and their calves @ 40 piastres;
The groom gives her the right to 400
piastres extra to be collected at his
death and to be counted as though she
had brought it into the marriage. He
makes this gift as a mark of his sincere
and tender love.

Signed:

Adam Tate

X Joseph Fontenot

X Phpe. Jn. Louis Fontenot

William Bundick

X Francois Pitre

Jean Gradenigo

X Marie Louise Fontenot

Mn. Duralde

no. 28

June 1, 1799

Before Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et Commandant
civil et militaire de ce poste.

Jean Henry Lastrapes, native of Castelnodarry en
Languedoc; son of Berthelemy
Lastrapes and Laurence Vernede.

Genevive Boisdoré, native of this post; daughter of feu
Antoine Boisdore and Francoise Veillon.

The parties married in the Catholic Church before making
this civil contract.

Witnesses for groom: Nicolas Lamathe and Francois Escouffie.

Witnesses for bride: Jean Gradenigo and Berthelemy Dejean.

Property of groom: From his interests with Berthelemy
Dejean and Vivant Souliers and Duclot:
5,000 piastres.

Property of bride: none

Signed:

Jn. Hr. Lastrapes

Jean Gradenigo

Dejean

Nicolas Lamathe

f,cois Escouffie

Mn. Duralde

Genevieve Boisdoré

no. 27

June 5, 1799

Before Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et
Commandant civil et militaire de ce poste.

A la requisition de pere Pierre Zamorra, curé de cette
paroisse par son office en d'acte d'hier, Deman-
dant conformément a l'ordre Royal du Roi Charles
III.

Amable Bertrand, pere, opposes the marriage of his son,
Amable Bertrand fils, to Angelique Ardoin.

Amable Bertrand pere swore and made the Sign of the Cross
to tell the truth:

Interrogation:

Name: Amable Bertrand

Religion: Catholique Apostolique et Romain

Age: 63

Native of: Montreal

Did your son ask your permission to marry: yes

How many times did he ask: three, and never received
consent.

Reason: 'el ne veut pas qu'il se marie avec cette
fille.'

Age of son: 32 years passée

Signed:

Jean Gradenigo

X Amable Bertrand

Martin Duralde

no. 67

(continued)

The following letter from Father Pedro Zamora to Martin Duralde, written in Spanish, dated June 4, 1799, is found with the foregoing document:

Sir:

I have a royal command from Charles III that if a son is of age and a parent wants to deny the right of inheritance because the son means to be married, the parent must present himself at the Royal Justice Building. Therefore, Mr. Amable Bertrand must present himself there to declare the reasons he has to forbid the marriage of his son.

He will state before witnesses his reasons and then the declaration will be given to me to be sent to the Church Tribunal, where judgement will be rendered.

(Signed) Fr. Pedro de Zamora

May 11, 1800

Before Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et
Commandant civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

Manuel Castille, native of Iberville parish, on the river,
province of Louisiana; son of feu Joseph
Castille and Osite Landry.

Felicite Stelly, native of this post; daughter of Francois
Stelly and Marie Therese Berthelot.

Witnesses for groom: His mother stipulates in her name;
Baptiste Castille, his brother;
Michel Martin and Paul Roquigny.

Witnesses for bride: Francois Stelly and Marie Therese
Berthelot stipulate in their names;
Manuel Grenot and Baptiste Castille.

Property of groom: two trained horses @ 65 piastres; two
young horses @ 40 piastres; seven juments
and autant de croits d'un an @ 110
piastres; forty betes-a-cornes tant
grandes que petites @ 200 piastres; one
arpent of land on both sides of Bayou
Teche, given by his mother in the
succession of his father, bounded on one
side by his mother and on the other by
Bte. Castille, his -----, situated at
Attakapas @ 40 piastres; two cows and
one calf from the succession of his
father @ 10 piastres; one lit garni from
the succession of his father @ 20 piastres.

(continued)

(continued from last page)

Property of bride: Twenty -four betes-a-cornes from the succession of her father and mother @ 120 piastres; five cows given by her father as dowry @ 40 piastres; two slaves, Augustin, age 12 or 13, creole of this post, and Magdeleine, age 14, native of this post @ 1100 piastres; five arpents of land at la prairie appellée vulgairment celle des femmes, bounded on one side by Balthazar Marks and on the other by Sieur Stelly, with the ordinary depth of 40 arpents, estimated at 20 piastres for each arpent of frontage @ 100 piastres; one lit tout monté @ 25 piastres.

Signed:

manuel castille

X Osite Landry Castille

Me. these. Berthelot Stelly

Jean Batiste Castille

M Greneaux

Michel Martin

X Felicite Stelly

X Francois Stelly

p. Roquigny

Martin Duralde

no. 40

1800-5-11

November 12, 1800

Before Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et Commandant
civil et militaire des Opelousas.

Godefroi Soileau, native of this post; son of Jean
Baptiste Soileau and Marie Jeanne
Viderine.

Marie de nieges Fontenot, native of this post; daughter
of feu Luc Fontenot and
Severine de Soto.

They had gone to the house of the commandant to draw
their contract of marriage but found him absent and
not expected soon, so they celebrated the marriage in
church.

Witnesses for groom: his father; Augustin Gradenigo,
his friend.

Witnesses for bride: Louis Fontenot, her uncle; Louis
Carriere and Baptiste Janson.

Property of groom: various animals @ 300 piastres.

Property of bride: 418 piastres and 7 reaux, including
her part in 493 piastres and 6 reaux
from her deceased father Luc Fontenot
from the partage of goods of the
deceased Joseph Fontenot, his father,
after the inventory done -br. 1790,
and the partage on July 22, 1791, in
which is named four children: Luc,
Elie, Marie de Nieges, and Ludevine
Fontenot; various animals, some with
the brand of Severine de Soto Fontenot.

Signed:

X Severine de Soto Fontenot et Prou(?)

Godefroi Soileau

L. Carriere

X Marie de Neiges Fontenot Soileau

Baptiste Jean Sonne

X Louis Fontenot

B Soileau

Martin Duralde

Autin. Gradenigo

no. 39

1800-11-12

December 16, 1800

Before don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et
Commandant civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

Witnesses: dn. Julien Lesassier, Commandant des Milices;
Jean Gradenigo, Joseph Distainval, Louis
Carriere, Alexandre Payau.

Sylvestre Bossie, resident of Attakapas.

Suzanne Collins, wife of Sylvestre Bossie.

Items: negrillon françois, creol de ce poste about five
years old @ 250 piastres; argent effectif monnaie
du prince @ 200 piastres; one bed garni @ 40
piastres; goods from the succession of the bride's
mother and father, Luc Collins and Zoe Courtableau;
one negresse, Dorthée, creole of this post about
twelve years old, given by Suzanne Collins (Widow
Piercy), her aunt, @ 400 piastres; ten betes-
a-cornes @ 40 piastres; two jumens @ 30 piastres.

Signed:

J Lesassier

Destinval

A Payau

Luke Collins

Jean Gradenigo

L. Carriere

Svt. bossie

Martin Duralde

(This document is not a true Marriage Contract, but
a Reconnaissance.)

no. 26

September 22, 1801

Before Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et
Commandant civil et militaire de ce poste.

Joseph Soniat de Dufossat, Capitaine des milices de la
cote au dessous de la Nouvelle
Orleans; son of feu Guy Soniat
Chevalier de Dufossat, Ancien
Capitaine d'infanterie au service
de Sa Majeste tres chretienne et
Capitaine retire et pensionne
du Regiment fixe de la Louisiane,
from Dufossat in Cahors, France;
and Francoise Claudine Dreux;
native of New Orleans and widower
of feu Marie Arnoul.

Louise Duralde, native of Opeloussas; daughter of Martin
Duralde, the writer of this document, who
is a native de Cambo dans la Biscaye
francaise; and Marie Joseph Louise Perrault,
from Quebec, Canada.

Witnesses for groom: Alexandre chevalier Delhomme, Lieutenant
des milices; Clair Benoit de Sainte
Clair, Lieutenant des dragons des
milices; and Balthazar Neuville
Declouet, Ensigne des Milices.

Witnesses for bride: Martin Duralde, her father; Marie
Joseph Louise Perrault, her mother;
Martin and Joseph Duralde, her brothers;
Alexandre Declouet, Capitaine des Milices;
Jean Gradenigo and Jean Berard.

Property of groom: 5375 piastres and $1\frac{1}{2}$ reaux, his part in the
succession of his defunte wife, from which
marriage issued four children. (This
section mentions le Marquis de Casa Calvo,
Gouverneur militaire de cette province.)
The groom also has rights in the heritage
from his mother, quand elle (the succession)
aura lieu.

Property of bride: Une petite metise, Judith, a domestic,
native of Opeloussas and about thirteen
years of age @ 700 piastres; a note from
her father @ 2300 piastres.

(continued)

A copy of this contract is deposited dans un greffe
in New Orleans.

Signed:

Josef Soniat Dufossat

Lise Duralde Soniat Dufossat

Martin Duralde

Ferrault Duralde

Martin Duralde fils

Joseph Duralde

Jean Berard

Jean Gradenigo

Adre. De Clouet

Alexandre Delhomme

Nle. DeClouet

Claire Benoit De Ste. Clair

no. 19

October 30, 1801

Before Martin Duralde, capitaine de milice et Commandant civil et militaire des Opelousas.

Jean Baptiste Figuran, inhabitant of this post, native of Antibes in Provence; widower of feu Marie Jeanson; son of feu Antoine Figuran and Anne Cauvio.

Constance de Beletre, native of Illinois; daughter of Louis Picote de Beletre and Joachim de Villiers.

Witnesses for groom: Jean Gradenigo and Joseph Roy.

Witnesses for bride: Louis Picote de Beletre, her father; Louis Chevalier de Villiers, her uncle; Joseph Distainval.

Property of groom: 7769 piastres and $3\frac{1}{2}$ reaux, net product of the inventory of his wife, of which his son Jean Baptiste Claude Figuran, will receive 444 piastres and $4\frac{1}{2}$ reaux.

Property of bride: one caleche @ 45 piastres; the rights in the succession of her parents lors que le cas arrivera.

Signed:

X Jn. Bte. Figuran

X Constance de Beletre

Louis de Villiers

Destinval

Picote de Belestre

Joseph Roy

Louis Gradenigo

Martin Duralde

no. 21

October 30, 1801

Before don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et
Commandant civil et Militaire of Opelousas.

Antoine Duprès, native of this post; son of feu Laurent
Duprès and Marie Joseph Fontenau.

Celeste Roy, native of this district, daughter of Joseph
Roy and Anne Bordelon.

Witnesses for groom: Louis Fontenot, his beaupere, who
consents for himself and his wife,
the groom's mother, Marie Joseph
Fontenot; Sylvestre Bossiè; Seth
Hanchett.

Witnesses for bride: her parents; Julien Lesassier,
Commandant of the Militia of this
post; Jean Gradenigo.

Property of the groom: 500 piastres from the succession
of his father; one hundred sixty
head of cattle (from feu Antoine
Boisdoré, his god-father?) @ 800
piastres; twelve head of betes-
cavalines @ 250 piastres.

Property of bride: Ten betes-a-cornes @ 50 piastres; other
goods @ 150 piastres.

Signed:

X Celeste Roy

Joseph Roy

X Antoine Duprès

F. Bossiè

L. Fontenot

Seth Hanchett

J. Lesassier

Martin Duralde

Jean Gradenigo

no. 20

April 2, 1802

Before don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et Commandant civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

Witnesses: Jean Gradenigo, Francois Veillon, Francois Ledoux.

Adelaide Ledoux, daughter of the said Francois Ledoux, widow of feu Jacques Jean Louis Fontenot; wife, in second marriage, of Jean Joubert. Issue of first marriage is Zenon Jacques Jean Louis Fontenot.

Signed:

F Le Doux

f. Veillon

Jean Gradenigo

Martin Duralde

(Jean Joubert makes his mark, according to the document; but it is not found with the other signatures.)

On an enclosed document containing items of property for the succession of the deceased Jacques Jean Louis Fontenot dated June 1, 1797, is found:

Signed:

Jean Bte. Roujot
Grand Pere de la Veuve

X Michel Janisse

X Jean Buraux

(The document is not a true Marriage Contract, but a Reconnaissance.)

no. 11

March 16, 1803

Before Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et Commandant civil et militaire de ce poste.

Martin Donato Bello, fils naturel of feu monsieur Donato Bello, officer of the infantry, and Marie Jeanne Taillefer(?), mulatresse; native of New Orleans.

Marianne Duchesne, fille naturelle of feu Louis Duchesne and Nanette St. Laurent, negresse; native of New Orleans.

They promise to marry in the Catholic Church, after having lived together for some time and reared children.

Marie Anne Duchesne has two children: Auguste Piernas and Marie Louise Allain, issues before her cohabitation with Donato Bello.

Property is estimated by Jacques Dupre and Antoine Paillet.

Witnesses for groom: Jean Gradenigo, Joseph Roi and Valerien Ozenne.

Witnesses for bride: Pierre Carriere, Baptiste Meullion and George Bolard.

The groom swears that the issues of this cohabitation before marriage are: Lucien Martin, Marie Denyse, Marie Louise, Martin Antoine Celestin, Celeste Emelie, and Augustin Donat.

Property of groom: 5000 piastres, some of which is lent out; one hundred fifty bouefs of four years old @ 1200 piastres; one boat and ses agrets neufs @ 500 piastres; one vielle berge @ 100 piastres; land of twenty arpents de face with a profondeur ordinaire on both sides of the coulée de Senneliers situated at Bois de Mallet on which is found a vacherie and house of 22 feet in length by 16 feet in width @ 500 piastres; 450 betes-a-cornes of all ages, male and female, large and small, @ 2250 piastres; 26 chevaux @ 1040 piastres; fifty betes cavallines, male and female of all ages @ 750 piastres; his plantation where he resides, consisting of land of about eleven arpents de face and of profodeur ordinaire and one house sur sol

of fifty feet in length, plus porches, one new cotton mill(moulin neuf a coton)plus improvements @ 4700 piastres; one negro, Gregoire of the Bambara nation, about forty years old @ 750 piastres; negre Michel, of the Congo nation, about twenty four years old @ 900 piastres; negre Bauhus, of the Congo nation, about forty years old @ 450 piastres; negresse Agathe, of the Congo nation, about thirty years old, @ 300 piastres; petit negrillon, son of Agathe, named Lubin, creol of this post, about two years old @ 150 piastres; four couverts d'argents and one cuillere d'argent a ragout @ 35 piastres; two charretes a cheval; one charrete a boeuf; two caleches; three charrures dont deux a cheval; household goods @ 180 piastres.

Property of bride: fifty betes-a-cornes, large and small, male and female @ 250 piastres; 100 piastres from her aunt, Marie Castillon also mentions one Nicolas Simon), thirty boeufs @ 240 piastres; four horses @ 160 piastres; ten betes cavalines @ 150 piastres; four couverts d'argent and one cuillere d'argent a ragout @ 35 piastres; 1600 piastres au coin du Mexique.

Signed:

Jean Gradenigo

M. Donato Bello

Joseph Roy

Paillet

V. Auzinne

P. Couviere (?)

George Bolerd

Bte. Meullion

X Marianne Duchesne

Martin Duralde

X Jacques Dupre

no. 111

June 15, 1803

Before Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et
Commandant civil et militaire de ce poste.

Thomas Gholson, native of Brunswick county in Virginia;
son of Jean Gholson and Fany Tettman;
27 years old.

Sara Lesassier, native of this district; daughter of
feu Julien Lesassier, Capitaine des
Grenadiers et Commandant des Milices
de ce poste; and Sara Collins, veuve
Lesassier

Witnesses for groom: Joseph Roy pere and Joseph Roy fils.

Witnesses for bride: Sara Collins, her mother; Theophile
Collins and Luc Collins, uncles;
Martha Collins, a relative.

Property of groom: negre Philippe, about 22 years old, of
Maryland @ 600 piastres; negre Daniel,
about 20 years old, of Mariland @ 550
piastres; negre Sanson, about 22 years
old, of Pensilvanie @ 500 piastres;
negresse Alfa(?), about 18 years old,
of Maryland @ 500 piastres; mulatresse
Mohaley, about 17 years old @ 455 piastres.

Property of bride: 500 piastres, given by the Widow Lesassier.

Signed:

Sarah Le Sassier

Joseph Roy

Sarah Le Sassier

Theo Collins

Theo Gholson

Murtough Collins

Luke Collins

Martin Duralde

no. 112

July 22, 1803

Before Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice and
Commandant civil et Militaire de ce poste.

Cornelius Voorhies, native of New Jersey, age 26, son of
feu Daniel Voorhies and feue Sara
Gordon.

Aimee Gradenigo, native of this post; daughter of Jean
Gradenigo and Marguerite Kreps.

Witnesses for groom: Theophile Collins and Robert Taylor.

Witnesses for bride: Augustin Gradenigo, Hilaire
Gradenigo, Louis Carriere, Francois
Robin and Jean Jacques Vernin
D'egrepont.

Property of groom: property in New Jersey, county of
Sommerset, owned jointly with his
brothers, Peter and Guillaume Voorhies,
worth about 1000 piastres.

Property of bride: one hundred betes-a-cornes given by
her Parain, feu Laurent Bailly, marked:

(3)

© 1000 piastres; a little mulatresse,
Hortence, about 7 years old, native of
this post © 300 piastres; other effects
© 200 piastres.

Signed:

Augtin. gradenigo

Cornelius Voorhies

X Aimee Gradenigo

Jean Gradenigo

Theo. Collins

Robin md

Vernin Daigrepont

Robert Taylor

hilaire Gradenigo

L. Carriere

Martin Duralde

no. 16

October 21, 1803

Before Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et
Commandant civil et militaire de ce poste et
de ce lui des Atacapas.

Oliver Clark, of major age; son of Thomas Clark and
Marie Brooks; a native of la Nouvelle
York.

Julienne Bridom, widow of feu Michel Stoots; daughter
of Michel Bridom and Catherine Rey-
tenauer; native of this colony.

Witnesses for groom: Thomas Hoffpauer and William
Gilchrist.

Witnesses for bride: Dame Michel Pridom for her husband;
Michel and Andres Bridom, her bro-
thers; Pierre Stoots, her beau-
frere; and Joseph Andrews and
Murtough Collins.

Property of groom: note from Sieur Raynaud, marchand a
Philadelphie, now in the possession
of Sieur Linx, marchand a la Nouvelle
Orleans, @ 2200 piastres.

Property of bride: the succession of her late husband
leaves a sum which must also be used
for the care of the issues of her
first marriage: Marie, Michel, Suzanne,
Celeste, Emelie, Jacob and Valnon Stoots.
A sum of 200 piastres is mentioned.

Signed:

pour ma seur veuve Michel Stouts
Andre Prud'homme

Michel Pridom

Oliver Clark

William Gilcreast

Joseph Andrew

Martin Duralde

Peter Stuts

pour ma maire & pour moy
Andre Prud'homme

Murtough Collins

Hoffpauer

no. 60

Transcription of the Soileau-Fontenot Marriage Contract
(July 30, 1771)

Par devant nous Commandant des Opeloussas en presence de temoins ci après nommés et soussignés furent presents en personne Noel Soileau fils Majeur usant ses droits du defunt Mr. Noel Soileau Garde Magasin du Roi au fort des Natches et de dame Marie Joseph Richaume ses pere et mere natif de la Paroisse de St. Charles cote des Allemans province de la Louisianne d'une part et de demoiselle Angelique Fonteno dite Bellevue fille mineure de Pierre Fonteno dit Bellevue habitante des Opeloussas et de Louise Doucet ses Pere et Mere nacquis du fort des Allabamons d'autre part - Le dit Pierre Fonteno stipulant et agissant pour la dite demoiselle mineur de son consentement et son nom. Lesquel partis de leur bon gré et pure volonté et de l'avis de leur Parens et amis ci-apres nommés savoir De la Part du Sr. Soileau des Srs. Robert Lamorandieres et Augustin Soileau ses frere et beaufrere et du coté de la dit demoiselle Angelique Fonteno, du Sr. Pierre Fonteno son Pere et de la dame Marie Louise Doucet sa tante ont fait les traites et accords de mariage qui suivent. Ont promis les futur epouse par nom loi et Sacrement de mariage celui faire celebrer et solemnizer en face de l'Eglise Catholique et Romaine à la premiere requisition de l'un entre eux - La Communauté des futur Epouse sera regie et gouvernée suivant la coutume et les loix d Espagne renoncant toutes autres contraires Quand bien meme cette colonie passeroit sous une autre domination - Ne feront les dits futurs Epouse tenus des dettes l'un de l'autre contractées avant la presente mariage au contraire Elles seront acquittées par celui qui les aura contractées sans que les biens de l'autre en repondent - Se prennent les dits futurs Epoux avec tous leur droits successifs mobiliers et immobiliers echus et a echeoir Ceux du futur Epoux consistent en un negre Creole nommé Joseph sa femme appelée Catherine deux petits negrillons nommés Jean Baptiste et Noel estimés ensemble trois mille sept cens soixante livres dont la dite future Epoux donne la dixieme a la dite future - Les droits de la dite future consistent premierement en onze Betes à cornes grands et petits évaluées ensemble trois cens livres Deuxiement en une somme de deux mille deux cens soixante quatre livres en piastres gourdes que la dite future a amassée par son industrie et ses economies Troisiement En une somme de trois cens septante six livres provenant du dixieme que le futur Epouse lui donne sur le totale du montant de son bien - Toutes ses trois sommes ensemble montant a trois milles livres constitueront les droits De la dite future - Les quelles elle prélèvera en cas de divorce ou de décès du dit futur Epoux - Entendent les dits futur Epoux que le present contract soit homologuées constitueront pour cet effet la personne du Commandant sousigné -

Car ainsi a été traité accordé et convenu Promettant --- Obligeant, Renoncant ---. Fait et Passé a notre habitation le trent de Juillet mil-septante et un En presence du Srs. Pierre Zeringue - Jean Baptiste Soileau - Jean Louis Zeringue - Francois Manne - Laurent Bailly temoins requis et demeurant lesquels ont signé en la minute avec les Srs. Lamorandiere, Augustin Soileau - Angelique Fonteno - Pierre Fonteno - Et nous Commandant du district - Noel Soileau, Pour Angelique Fonteno Fusilier DelaClaire - Pour Pierre Fonteno Fusilier DelaClaire Soileau de la-morandiere - Augustin Soileau fusilier --- P. Zerengue - Boyez (or Boyer) faits pour Lamanlbay Boyez faits pour F. Manne - Rober de Lamorandiere - Fusslier de la Claire.

Parish of Saint Landry to wit: I do hereby certify that the above three Pages are a true Copy from the Original of Record in my Office. In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and Seal of Office at Opelousas this 8th June 1810. (Signed) Geo King P. Judge

(Translation of the preceding contract)

Before us Commandant of Opelousas in the presence of witnesses hereafter named and undersigned were present in person Noel Soileau, major son and master of his rights of the desceased Mr. Noel Soileau, keeper of the king's storehouse at the Natchez fort, and of Dame Marie Joseph Richaume, his father and mother, native of the parish of St. Charles on the German Coast, province of Louisiana, on one part and of Miss Angelique Fontenot called Bellevue, minor daughter of Pierre Fontenot called Bellevue, inhabitant of Opelousas and of Louise Doucet, her father and mother. born at the fort of Alibamons for the other part. The said Pierre Fontenot stipulates and acts for the said minor girl with his consent and his name. Which parties with their good will and good intention and with the advice of their parents and friends, hereafter named. To wit: on the part of Sr. Soileau, Sieurs Robert Lamorandiere and Augustin Soileau his brother and brother-in-law and on the part of the said Miss Angelique Fontenot, Sr. Pierre Fontenot, her father and Dame Marie Louise Doucet, her aunt, have made the contract and agreement of marriage which follows. The future spouses promise in the name of the Law and Sacrement of Marriage to have the marriage celebrated and solemnized before the Roman Catholic Church at the first request of one to the other. The community of the future spouses will be regulated and governed according to the custom and laws of Spain renouncing all others to the contrary even though this colony should pass to another ruler. The future spouses will not be responsible for one another's debts contracted before marriage - on the contrary they must be settled by the one who contracted them without the possessions of the other

being liable. The said future spouses take all their rights of succession moveable and immoveable. Those of the future husband consist of one native-born Negro named Joseph, his wife Catherine and two small Negroes named Jean Baptiste and Noel estimated together at 3 760 livres of which the said future husband gives one-tenth to his said future (wife). The rights of the said future (wife) consist first of 11 horned animals large and small evaluated together at 300 livres; second, one sum of 2.264 livres in piastres gourdes which the said future (wife) amassed by her industry and her economies; third, one sum of 376 livres coming from the tenth part which the future husband gave her on the total amount of his goods. All these three sums together add up to 3,000 livres constituting the rights of the said future (wife) and which she will deduct in case of divorce or of the decease of said future husband. The said future spouses understanding that the present contract will be homologated constitute for that effect the person of the commandant below-signed. For also was managed, agreed, and acknowledged. Done and passed at our habitation the 30 July 1-71 in the presence of Sieurs Pierre Zeringue, Jean Baptiste Soileau, Jean Louis Zeringue, Francois Manne, Laurent Bailly - required resident witnesses who signed in this draft with the Sieurs Lamorandiere, Augustin Soileau, Angelique Fonteno, Pierre Fonteno, and us, Commandant of the district. Noel Soileau for Angelique Fonteno, Fusilier De la Claire for Pierre Fonteno, Fusilier DelaClaire; Soileau de lamorandiere Augustin Soileau, fusilier; P. Zeringue Boyez for Lamanlbroy Boyez for F. Manne; Robert De Lamorandiere Fuselier de la Claire.

(Note: The record of the religious ceremony which followed this contract is in the archives at St. Mary's Catholic Church, New Roads, Louisiana, and is dated August 19, 1771. Noel (Etienne) Soileau was commander at the Avoyelles Post from approximately 1788 until 1805. His baptism record in St. Charles Parish states that he was born April 30, 1745.)

These definitions were compiled through the use of reference books and interviews with old French-speaking people of the Opelousas area. Published references include Louisiana-French by Reed, History of Missouri by Houck, Kaskaskia Under the French Regime by Belting, and the Louisiana Historical Quarterlies.

Agrets(Agrès)neufs: rigging (of a ship).

Amis: friends.

Ancien officier reformé: a retired officer; an officer on half-pay; French officer who had been stationed in the Illinois country.

Argent effectif monnaie du prince: actual royal coin.

Arpent: lineal measure, approximately 192 feet; square measure, approximately .85 of an acre.

Au défaut: by default; because of the absence of.

Au domicile: at the residence.

Au fort: at the fort.

Autant de croits d'un an: having the size of a year-old offspring.

Beau-frère: brother-in-law; step-brother.

Beau-père: father-in-law; step-father.

Berge(Barque): barge.

Betes-a-Cornes: horned cattle.

Betes cavallines: pack horses; inferior horses.

Bijouteries: jewelery; ornaments.

Bistaux(Bestiaux): cattle; domestic animals.

Boeufs: oxen.

Calèche: open carriage.

Capitaine des Grenadiers et Commandant des Milices:

Captain of the Grenadiers and Commander of the Militia

Capitaine des Milices de la cote au dessous de la

Nouvelle Orleans: Captain of the Militia of the coast below New Orleans.

Capitaine gradué de Milice: senior captain of the Militia

Carabine: rifle.

Carteronne libre: free octaroon or quadroon.

Charrete: cart.

Charrure(Charrue): plow.

Cheval de caleche et ses harnois: buggy-horse and harness

Cheval de monture: riding horse.

Cheval de selle: saddle-horse.

Cloture: fence or enclosure.

Coin du Mexique: Spanish money coined in Mexico.

Comisione du Magasin d'artillerie de Penzacola: Commissioner(guardian) of the artillery storehouse of Pensacola.

Commandant des milices: commander of the militia.

Cousin germain: first cousin; true or blood cousin.
 Couvert d'argent: place-setting of silver (plate, knife, fork, spoon.)
 Couverture en cipe(cyprès): roof of cypress.
 Creole de ce poste: born at this post.
 Cuillère à ragout: gravy ladle; serving spoon.

Dans cette province: in this province (Louisiana.)
 Dans le bas: below; in the lower part; in the basin.
 Dans un greffe: in a record-office or court.
 De ce poste: of this post.
 De face: of frontage.
 Défunt(e): deceased.
 De l'année: of the year.
 D'en haut: from above.
 De tire: term used to denote a work-animal, as, cheval de tire - work horse.
 Dit: called; nicknamed.
 Diverses créances: various credits; various debts.
 Domté(Dompté): gentled; tamed.
 Droits paternel et maternel: right of paternal and maternal inheritance.
 Du premier lit: of the first marriage.

Effets: effects; household goods; supplies.
 En avant donairée: will be given before.
 Enseigne de milice: standard-bearer of the militia.
 Entouré de pieux: enclosed with stakes.
 Escalin: money worth about $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents; one real.

Feu(e): deceased.
 Fils: son; junior.
 Fils(Fille) naturel(le): illegitimate child.
 Fusil: gun

Galerie: wide porch
 Garde magasin du roi: keeper of the king's storehouse.
 Garderobe: an armoire or wardrobe.
 Genisse: heifer.

Habitation: place of residence; farm or plantation owned by the resident.
 Hardes: clothes; utensils; tools.

Juments: mares.

La profondeur ordinaire: usual depth of land given by grant (40 arpents.)

L'endroit qu'occupe: the place occupied by.

Libre: free

Linge: clothes, particularly washable clothes such as underclothes, shirts, etc.

Lit garni: fully-dressed bed (tester, draperies, etc.)

Lit tout monté: Bed, including mattress; pillows, and often bed linens.

Livre: piece of French money used in colonial Louisiana having the value of $18\frac{1}{2}$ cents in 1727.

Lors que le cas arrivera: when it happens(that).

Maitre de ses droits: master of his rights; emancipated.

Marchand: merchant.

Médecin: doctor; medical practitioner.

Meres-vaches: mother cows.

Metise: Indian half-breed; mongrel.

Meubles: movable belongings.

Moulin-a-pilon: mill used to husk rice and to crush corn or wheat into meal.

Moyen cochon: medium-size pig.

Mulatre: mulatto.

Murier chenen blanc(Murer en chene blanc): walled with white oak.

Negre: Negro

Negrette: small Negro girl.

Negrillon: small Negro boy.

Parents: relatives.

Par interim: for the interval; in the meantime.

Par nous: by us.(Used in these documents to mean the commandant, so is singular by me.)

Paroisse: parish, ecclesiastical or governmental.

Parrain: god-father.

Partage: division (usually of an estate.)

Passé: passed.

Père: father; senior.

Piastre: word used in colonial Louisiana for the Spanish piece-of-eight; now used for the American dollar.

Piastre-gourde: coin worth about one dollar.
 Poteaux en terre: posts in the ground.
 Pouliche: filly.
 Potre: (could not be defined).

Quand elle aura lieu: when it takes place.
 Quartier: quarter; section.

Real: Spanish coin worth about 12½ cents.
 Reaux(Reales): see Real.
 Reconnaissance: recognition; restatement.

Seur(Soeur): sister.
 Son propre oncle: his own or true uncle, that is,
 not uncle by marriage.
 Sous-lieutenant: Sub-lieutenant; second lieutenant.
 Suivants: suckling animals, such as calves, colts; etc.
 Sur sol: on the ground.

Tant grandes que petites: both large and small ones.
 Taureau: bull
 Taures: heifers.

Une terre: a tract of land.

Vache: cow.
 Vaisselle: dishes.
 Veuf: widower.
 Veuve: widow.
 Vielle vacherie: old cattle ranch.
 Vulgairement appelée: commonly called.

The names of the presiding officials and the witnesses are not given in the index. Such a listing would be repetitious and of no special value. This index includes the names of the contracting parties, their parents, and previous spouses.

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